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## Letter dated 17 May 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1289 (2000) of 7 February 2000, by which the Council approved the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) with an authorized strength of up to 11,100 military personnel, including 260 military observers.

As members of the Security Council are aware, as a result of the recent attacks by the Revolutionary United Front against UNAMSIL personnel and the resumption of hostilities, it was deemed crucial to accelerate the deployment of military units that Member States had already committed for service with UNAMSIL, as well as to further reinforce the Mission's military component. This reinforcement, which would bring the military strength of UNAMSIL up to 13,000 military personnel, is currently under way.

As a result, it is expected that the Mission's authorized strength of 11,100 will be exceeded in the next several days as reinforcements arrive. The Security Council may therefore wish to consider taking appropriate steps to authorize the interim expansion of the United Nations force. I would also like to note that broader recommendations regarding the situation in Sierra Leone will be contained in my next report to the Council, which will be submitted shortly.

I would be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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